

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 02029 200118Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 /040 W
-----058260 200126Z /66
R 200020Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2732
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2029

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, XO,AS
SUBJECT: US-AUSTRALIAN INDIAN OCEAN CONSULTATIONS

REF: CANBERRA 1692 (DTG 070558Z MAR 78)

1. DURING AN ENORMOUSLY USEFUL (AT LEAST TO THE GOE) EXCHANGE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN OCCASIONED BY THE STOP-OVER HERE OF EA/RA DIRECTOR ROBERT MARTENS, WE WERE TOLD THAT THE GOA HAS DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE US OFFER OF "EXPERTS CONSULTATIONS" IN WASHINGTON.
2. GOA DOUBTS THAT IT COULD SEND ANYONE TO WASHINGTON BEFORE MID-APRIL AT THE EARLIEST BECAUSE OF THIN STAFFING IN RELEVANT OFFICERS HERE, BUT WISHES, IF IT CAN, TO FIELD A MODEST TEAM COMPOSED OF A DFA REPRESENTATIVE OR TWO AND PERHAPS TWO OR THREE FROM ADOD, JOINING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THEIR WASHINGTON EMBASSY.

PROPOSALS OF SPECIFIC CANDIDATES HAVEN'T YET GONE UP TO MINISTERS, BUT WE'LL REPORT AS SOON AS WE HAVE WORD. DFA CAUTIONED THAT USG SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT AT LEAST AT THIS STAGE, GOA IS NOWHERE NEAR HAVING A COORDINATED GOVERNMENT

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POSITION TO OFFER US.

3. WHAT IS CLEAR IS THAT THE GOA IS INCREASINGLY REASSURED THAT THE US IS TAKING AUSTRALIAN CONCERNS INTO CONSIDERATION AND IT IS APPRECIATIVE.
ALSTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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